

ROBERT “BO” RYALL  
President & CEO

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May 18, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As the leading voice advocating for the integration and delivery of quality healthcare within the state, the Arkansas Hospital Association supports the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile.

Innovation in the way diagnostic and treatment services are delivered is revolutionizing the field of healthcare. No longer confined to the traditional “doctor in the room” approach, it is now possible to give patients high quality care in a way that simply wasn’t possible just a few years ago.

For instance, with increased connectivity, patients in rural Arkansas can gain access to highly trained specialists in more urban parts of the state or country without leaving their hometown. Some patients can even be monitored remotely, allowing them to recuperate in a place that is more cost effective and comfortable.

The emergence of technology is staggering and exciting, but in order to take advantage, we must harness the capability to be connected. The proposed merger of two communications companies provides the best chance for the majority of our state’s people to realize the benefits of telemedicine innovation, especially those in rural areas of our state.

High quality and efficiently delivered healthcare is integral to our state’s success. The increases in quality of life provide benefits for all sectors of our state’s health, both physical and economic. We urge your support of this merger to give our state the opportunity to leverage technological innovation into gains in healthcare quality and delivery.

Sincerely,

Bo Ryall

BR/ae